

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05275 181527Z

70

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-02 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DLOS-03 /043 W

----- 075644

R 181147Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5558

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SAIGON 5275

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR RP CH VN

SUBJ: DISPUTED TERRITORIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

REF: MANILA 4777

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED ON SOUTHWEST CAY, SPRATLY ISLANDS, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 14 AND WHETHER PRC OR DRV INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE NAVY A REPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM A PHILIPPINE SOURCE, PRESUMABLY BASED ON INFORMATION COMING FROM PHILIPPINE SALVAGE VESSEL AND MARINE UNITS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTTEL, THAT ON APRIL 14 AN UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT WAS OBSERVED DISCHARGING UDT TEAM ON SOUTHWEST CAY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AN EXPLOSION WAS HEARD, AND AN NLF FLAG WAS OBSERVED FLYING ON THE ISLAND. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE ISLAND WAS ALSO LOST ON OR ABOUT THAT TIME. THE ISLAND WAS DEFENDED BY 29 TERRITORIAL FORCE TROOPS AND 4 VN PERSONNEL WHO OPERATED RADIO/WEATHER STATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05275 181527Z

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE REPORT THAT THE NLF FLAG FLYING ON

SOUTHWEST CAY, VNN SHIP HQ 16 WAS DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE. SHIP DID NOT CLOSE ON ISLAND BUT REPORTED THAT PEOPLE COULD BE SEEN ON THE ISLAND AND VERIFIED THAT NLF FLAG FLYING.

3. GVN MAINTAINS ABOUT 150 TERRITORIAL FORCE TROOPS SPREAD AMONG THE FIVE SPRATLY'S OCCUPIED BY THE GVN. VNN CHIEF OF OPERATIONS HAS SAID THAT HQ 16 WILL COLLECT MEN FROM OTHER ISLAND GARRISONS AND REOCCUPY SOUTHWEST CAY IN DUE COURSE.

4. WE ALSO NOTE AFP REPORT FROM SAIGON DATED APRIL 18 CLAIMING THAT GVN GARRISON ABANDONED SOUTHWEST CAY WHEN THREE CHINESE SHIPS WENT CLOSE TO ISLANDS. ACCORDING TO AFP STORY, SOUTH VIETNAMESE DEFENDERS RAN INTO THE WATER AND SWAM OFF, EVEN THOUGH SHIPS SHOWED NO SIGNS OF PUTTING MEN ASHORE.

5. WE WILL STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH VNN TO TRY TO GET ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED AND IF PRC OR DRV SHIPS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED.
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOUTH CHINA SEA, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON05275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750137-0453
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750437/aaaabiti.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 MANILA 4777
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPUTED TERRITORIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA
TAGS: PBOR, RP, CH, VN, PG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006